OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5906

AN ACT CONCERNING PRESCRIPTIONS FOR CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES AND USE OF THE CONNECTICUT PRESCRIPTION MONITORING AND REPORTING SYSTEM.

SUMMARY:

This bill requires medical practitioners to review their patient's history of controlled substance use each time before distributing, prescribing, administering, or dispensing a controlled substance to the patient. It requires them to do so by accessing the electronic prescription drug monitoring program administered by the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP). Currently, these practitioners must register with DCP.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2014

BACKGROUND

Practitioners

By law, a "practitioner" is a physician, dentist, veterinarian, podiatrist, optometrist, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, nurse-midwife, scientific investigator, or other person licensed, registered, or otherwise permitted to distribute, dispense, conduct research with respect to, or to administer, a controlled substance in the course of professional practice or research in Connecticut. Practitioners also include any hospital or other institution licensed, registered, or otherwise permitted to engage in these activities.

Electronic Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

Under this program, DCP collects prescription information twice a month from pharmacies on Schedules II, III, IV, and V controlled substances (drugs that are acceptable for medical use but may be abused). Pharmacists are required to electronically report certain

information to DCP, including the date a drug was dispensed, dispenser identification and prescription number, and certain patient identification data. The information is aggregated and made available to medical practitioners and others so that they can track their patients' history of using controlled substances and work to prevent the drugs' improper or illegal use.

Related Bills

HB 6389, reported favorably by the Public Health Committee, also requires practitioners who distribute, administer, or dispense controlled substances, or who seek to do so, to register for access to the Electronic Prescription Drug Monitoring program. It takes effect October 1, 2013.

HB 6406, reported favorably by the General Law Committee, expands the reach of the program to require reporting by out-of-state pharmacies and others providing prescription drugs in-state; allows the DCP to require reporting on other drug products as new situations require; increases the frequency of the reporting by dispensers from twice monthly to weekly; extends legal protections to practitioners who request information from the program; and requires practitioners to register to access the program, in addition to registering with the DCP.

COMMITTEE ACTION

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 17 Nay 1 (03/12/2013)